



THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Copyright law plays a critical role in promoting and disseminating American works of authorship and in sustaining large businesses, small companies, and individual creators in the creative industries, including those involving the arts, entertainment, technology and information sectors. The Copyright Office has been charged with administering the Copyright Act for well over a century. Additionally, the Copyright Office has assisted Congress in policy formulation since the Office's creation. The Copyright Office plays a key role in analyzing and updating the copyright law from all perspectives, developing policy initiatives to effectively protect creative content while being flexible enough to support uses of copyrighted works in new ways, and providing leadership and impartial expertise on questions of copyright law and policy. The mission, ongoing work and future goals of the Copyright Office is described in our *Strategic Plan: 2016-2020: Positioning the United States Copyright Office for the Future*.

Specifically, Congress has identified several critical law and policy functions of the Copyright Office, including:

- Advising Congress on domestic and international copyright issues;
- Providing assistance and information to other federal agencies and the courts;
- Participating on U.S. delegations in meetings with foreign governments and intergovernmental meetings; and
- Conducting studies and programs regarding copyright, including educational programs conducted cooperatively with international intergovernmental organizations and foreign intellectual property offices.

See 17 U.S.C. § 701(b). The Office of Policy and International Affairs (PIA) is the primary office within the Copyright Office involved in executing these legislative mandates. PIA is directed by an Associate Register of Copyrights, and is staffed by lawyers who share twin responsibilities for both domestic and international copyright affairs.

DOMESTIC POLICY

PIA works closely with congressional offices on domestic copyright legislation and policy matters, including by providing detailed technical advice on legislative copyright proposals. PIA, along with the Office of the General Counsel, also supports the Register of Copyrights' testimony before congressional committees on proposed or pending copyright legislation. Following the April 2013 announcement of a review of the copyright law by the House Judiciary Committee, the Committee held 20 hearings with 100 witnesses over the course of two years. PIA participated in numerous aspects of this review.

PIA also conducts comprehensive legal analyses and studies for the benefit of Congress and the general public. For example, PIA produced a major report titled *Orphan Works and Mass Digitization* in June 2015 and another on *The Making Available Right in the United States* in February 2016. PIA previously took the lead on producing the report *Resale Royalties: An Updated Analysis* in 2013, the 2011 report on *Legal Issues in Mass Digitization*, and the 2006 *Report on Orphan Works*. PIA also was involved in preparing the *Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition* in 2014 as well as the 2017 updates and contributed to the *Section 1201* report in 2017 and the *Copyright Small Claims* report in 2013. Currently, PIA is involved with major studies of Section 512 and the moral rights of attribution and integrity as well as updating Section 108 exceptions for libraries and archives.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PIA attorneys have substantial expertise in foreign copyright issues and international copyright treaty obligations. This includes complex work on the numerous copyright issues pending before the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and in other fora. PIA attorneys serve on U.S. government delegations for bilateral and regional trade agreements and copyright treaty negotiations between the United States and other countries. Working with interagency colleagues, PIA provides advice to foreign governments on technical analyses of their copyright laws and enforcement regimes. PIA, along with its colleagues throughout the Copyright Office, promotes the development of copyright systems, nationally and internationally. PIA provides and participates in technical assistance and capacity-building programs and conferences with foreign governments seeking to develop or improve their intellectual property laws. For example, in June 2016, PIA organized the Copyright Office–WIPO International Copyright Institute (ICI) with over fifty expert speakers for senior leaders of foreign copyright offices from twenty-two countries.